

As the President and CEO of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, John has been indispensable in making possible the economic growth and general welfare that Hoosiers in northeast Indiana have enjoyed the last 15 years and will continue to enjoy for a long time to come.

John led the partnership since its founding in 2006. Prior to the partnership's creation, cities and counties in the region competed, more than did they cooperate, for investment. The region was experiencing a declining per-capita income and change was needed.

Thanks to John's leadership and his vision to make northeast Indiana a globally competitive economy, investment started coming in and the region began a transformation.

In his own words, "Working together, our region has overcome challenges and achieved major milestones many thought not possible. In collaboration with our partners from the private and public sectors throughout the 11 counties, we have built a foundation of regional strength and momentum that will serve the residents of Northeast Indiana for years to come."

John has been described as having "Unabashed passion for all things Northeast Indiana." Anyone who has met him agrees.

As John retires, I wish him the best for all that he has done after a long and distinguished career. This record is testament to his service for which northeast Indiana is grateful.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN LEONARD, JR.

##### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 11, 2021*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the esteemed career and public service of John V. Leonard, Jr, who retires from General Dynamics Electric Boat as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on July 6, 2021. While John retires from a career in the private sector, his outstanding leadership and dedication as a senior employee at Electric Boat holds merits for maintaining the public interest as he has helped oversee an economic boon at Electric Boat, creating thousands of jobs for the hard working residents of eastern Connecticut while simultaneously advancing our national security priorities.

Having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the nearby University of Rhode Island, John was always meant to apply his expertise toward the betterment of our local community. Before dedicating his career to Electric Boat, however, John first went on to serve in the Marine Corps, achieving the rank of Captain, then going on to attend Columbia University where he earned an MBA in numerous areas of concentration. From there, John joined Electric Boat in 1980—first as a Financial Analyst—where he ultimately carried out the company's mission for more than 40 years.

John's track at Electric Boat has been defined by loyalty and an ever-increasing degree of responsibility. Receiving one of his first major promotions in 1995 to Vice President of Finance, John seized upon the opportunity to prove his leadership capabilities. In 1998,

when Electric Boat was experiencing an era of downsizing and uncertain financial sustainability, John envisioned a path where others had not and earned the company the Block I contract with the Navy for two Virginia-Class attack submarines. His mastery of unconventional problem solving and deep understanding of the engineering thought processes led John and Electric Boat to lay the groundwork that has allowed the company to meet today's high demands from the Navy.

John's success and contractually-focused perspective most recently earned him the appointment of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 2019, which has come after his promotion to the Chief Financial Office in 2003. As Senior Vice President, John has been responsible for a wide range of functions at Electric Boat, including finances, contracts, tax, strategic planning, IT management, oversight of the facility master plan, Applied Physical Sciences and the Washington Engineering Office.

Madam Speaker, John's presence and expertise at Electric Boat will be sorely missed. Our region and Electric Boat, however, can at least find solace in what his leadership has helped create: a healthy backlog of submarine construction and the highly sought after Columbia Build I contract, meaning that Electric Boat will be responsible for building out the nation's first ever, next generation sea-based strategic deterrent. This bright future for Electric Boat means great things for the second district's local economy and even more for the security of our national defense. We owe a lot of thanks to John Leonard's leadership abilities. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating John on his well-earned retirement, where he now goes on to spend more time with his wife Julia and adult sons Adam, Jack, Mason and Max.

#### COMMEMORATING 225 YEARS OF TENNESSEE STATEHOOD WITH THE KICKOFF CELEBRATION IN JONESBOROUGH

##### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 11, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 225 years of Tennessee statehood. June 1, 2021 began a year-long celebration which will rightfully begin in the oldest town in Tennessee, Jonesborough, located in the First Congressional District and which was established seventeen years before Tennessee was granted statehood.

The original territory of Tennessee consisted of six counties—Washington, Sullivan, Greene, Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee (later Montgomery & Robertson)—under the jurisdiction of North Carolina from 1777 to 1788. The counties requested protection from Native Americans and the right to navigate the Mississippi River but North Carolina neglected these territories so, in 1784, dissatisfied East Tennesseans formed the breakaway state of Franklin, or "Frankland," under the direction of John Sevier, the newly named governor. As North Carolinian officials discovered the territory's attempted independence, they slowly reasserted their authority over the area. Dis-

agreements among rival factions, coupled with the North Carolina resistance, doomed the state of Franklin, which passed out of existence in 1788. The following year, North Carolina gave its Tennessee lands to the Federal government which designated it as the Territory of the United States, South of the River Ohio, also known as the Southwest Territory. William Blount governed the territory and, in 1795, called for a constitutional convention in Knoxville to begin the process of joining the Union. Tennessee became the first Federal territory to apply for statehood and, after a close vote on June 1, 1796, became the 16th state of the Union.

Our Governor, Bill Lee, has declared the theme for this yearlong celebration "Untold Tennessee." He has encouraged Tennesseans to share their untold stories of people, places and events that have shaped our state since its beginning. With Jonesborough being the oldest town in Tennessee, established seventeen years prior to statehood, and home to the International Storytelling Center, it is only fitting that those stories begin to be told here.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Great State of Tennessee on 225 years of statehood and Jonesborough, located in the First Congressional District, on being the site of the kickoff of the yearlong celebration. I am proud to be a Tennessean and, even more so, to represent the people of the First District who will all be part of the next 225 years of stories that will continue to shape our state.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF EDDIE GOSSAGE

##### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 11, 2021*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifetime accomplishments of Eddie Gossage, President and Manager of Texas Motor Speedway. Mr. Gossage retires following a career spanning over 25 years at Speedway Motorsports, LLC. It is my privilege to commend him for his tremendous support of North Texas and the creation of one of Fort Worth's most famous landmarks.

Mr. Gossage was personally instrumental in the founding, management, and ultimate success of Texas Motor Speedway. Since the facility's groundbreaking in 1995, it has not only become a go-to sporting destination for countless North Texans, it has also hosted the largest single-day crowd in Texas sports history. In addition, Mr. Gossage's motorsports accomplishments include hosting the first ever Indy night race. TMS has been the site of major music festivals and venue for countless civic and corporate events.

I applaud Mr. Gossage for his philanthropic efforts in bolstering the health and wellbeing of our community. Mr. Gossage serves on the Board of Directors for Speedway Children's Charities, and, most recently, offered the speedway as a "super" venue for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Texas Motor Speedway's partnership with the Denton County Public Health Department resulted in the administration of over 375,000 vaccines from early February to mid-May. Thanks to Mr.